

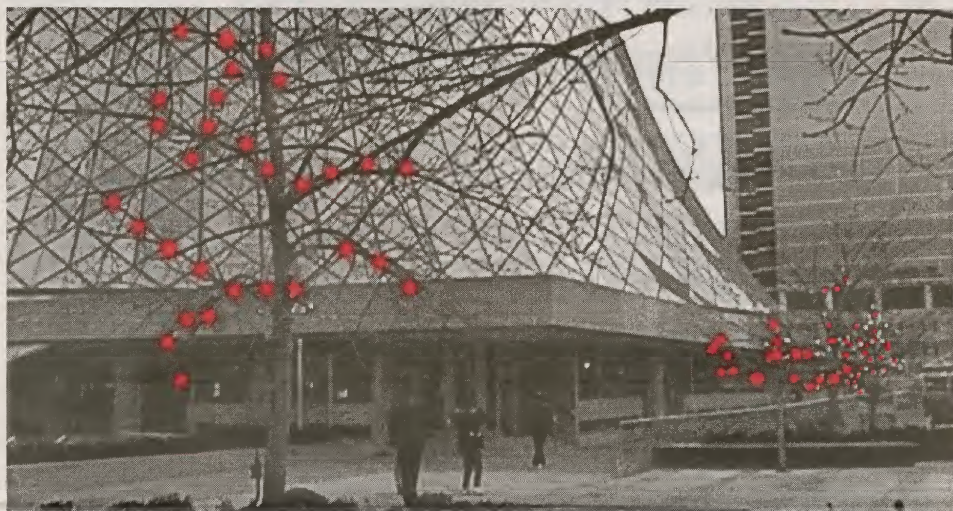


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THE STUDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
OF GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE, TORONTO



The familiar facade of Roy Thomson Hall—all decked out for the holidays. Image by Allan Stokell

## “December 6 happens everyday”

by Allan Stokell

*Pretend this is a happy home  
Pretend that I am not alone  
Pretend that life goes merrily by  
When inside all I do is cry.*

So goes the first verse of a heart felt poem by Randi Foley, a survivor of spousal abuse. On the 6th of December she told fellow mourners of her own suffering and the story of the torment she lived through at the hands of her husband. The lecture hall of the Mitchener Institute was standing room only as Randi spoke. They were there to remember the 14 women whose lives were stolen from them ten years earlier at École Polytechnique in Montréal by a man who hated feminists.

Randi shared her story with her sisters and brothers present. In the beginning of their relationship, her husband had showered her with gifts and affection. It was soon replaced with control and violence. She was told she was stupid and everything she did was wrong. The only tasks she was allowed to perform in the household was laundry and cleaning. Even the cleaning materials were held

under lock and key by her husband. If she used too much or too little she was beaten.

Between November 1998 and October 1999, 32 women have been killed by their spouses or boyfriends in the province of Ontario. The banner at the front of the hall at the memorial stated “December 6th happens everyday”. This thought was reflected by the participants who mourned the murder of a young Oshawa mother in a parking lot only the day before.

In the emotionally charged hall, Susan Waite read “Ann’s Story” as told by her mother. Ann was a woman who had been horribly abused by her husband. When she arrived at the women’s shelter with her children she could not even sleep in a bed. A bed and a bedroom held so much fear for her. Just as she was getting her life together after years of physical and mental abuse she was shot dead by her estranged husband.

The attendees were urged to get involved to protest funding cuts and the lack of action from all levels of government.

...“Pretending gets harder to do.  
If I stop pretending...my life is  
through.”



The Mitchener Institute near Nightingale Campus the scene of a December 6 memorial.

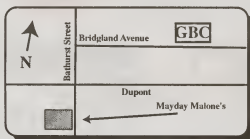
### SPECIAL SECTIONS IN THIS ISSUE

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**LIFESTYLE:** Yuletide recipes, holiday primer and last-minute gift guide PAGES 8 & 9  
**HOROSCOPES:** What do the stars hold for you this holiday season? PAGE 13

# Mayday Malone's

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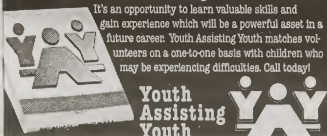
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Holidays  
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*from the staff and  
contributors of the  
dialog newspaper*



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Deadline for copy:  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 30  
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FRIDAY JANUARY 7  
ISSUE EDITOR: ALDA KANG

The Dialog Collective, the publishers of the Dialog newspaper, receive many letters from staff and students regarding a variety of issues. The Dialog Collective is proud to be a part of the community and to provide a place for students to express their views. The Dialog Collective is a non-profit organization and all services are provided at the expense of the students. The Dialog Collective is not responsible for any damage or loss of property or data. The Dialog Collective is not responsible for any damage or loss of property or data. The Dialog Collective is not responsible for any damage or loss of property or data.



Dialog is a Member of the Canadian University Press (CUP). Contributions to Dialog are always gratefully accepted. Written work can be handwritten or in plain text (TXT). Images should be in EPS format (please specify if created in Photoshop or Illustrator). It is requested that you submit a hard copy of your work with the digital file. Opinions expressed in Dialog are not necessarily those of the Dialog Collective, the Student Association of George Brown College, or its editorial staff. Dialog will not publish any material that attempts to incite violence or hatred against individuals or groups, particularly based on race, national origin, ethnicity, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.



by Kari Macknight

In the interest of keeping Christmas from becoming the orgy of greed it was when I was a child, I have decided to take the minimalist approach to gift giving this year. This is, of course, not to be mistaken for the decorating concept of little or no furniture and the boring white walls that, in my opinion, is just an excuse for a lack of imagination.

There WILL be gifts. The difference this year is that the gifts will be minimal. I'm a very generous person throughout the year and no longer feel the need to materially show my love.

I've grown weary of the constant commercialism that surrounds the holiday. Christmas isn't supposed to be about Pokémon, and I have it on good authority from my Jewish friends that Hanukkah wasn't founded on the premise that everyone needs a Clearnet PCS phone. The holiday, whatever name you attach to it, is about family, friends and celebration.

One of the reasons for this decision is resources. As a full-time student, I no longer possess the means to be extravagant. I will be overseas in Hungary for the holiday and most of my disposable income is going to finance the trip. This is a gift to the family that hosted me when I was an exchange student back in high school. I also have a special friend I want to catch up with for New Year's Eve. All these people are an integral part of my life and the opportunity to visit them is one I simply cannot pass up, even though I'll be missing my real family as they gather in my absence.

This issue is jam-packed with holiday ideas and recipes even Martha Stewart would love, along with some fantasy gift ideas if you're the sort that has unlimited means and are still looking for the perfect material expression.

Keep this issue for reference the morning after the night before as we've included some tips for conquering the inevitable feeling that follows overindulgence in some of the more potent potables.

So, I'm Budapest bound. Hoory! Since this is probably the last vacation I'll have until the *true* beginning of the next millennium, I'm going to enjoy it to the fullest. As you read this, I'm searching frantically for my passport, figuring which 10 pairs of shoes to bring with me and trying to remove from my vocabulary all the nasty Hungarian words that seem always to rear their vulgar heads when I'm prompted for a sound bite. With that, I bid you Boldog Karácsonyt és Üj Évet. See you next year, GBC!



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to get the attention of all George Brown students taking public transit, particularly those taking the subway and walk from the subway to school.

Every morning, in addition to breathing in car exhaust...there are students who have the audacity to feed their nicotine habit in front of people who didn't ask to breathe in their stale exhaust. Do they think the smoke just goes away after they're done with it? Where does the smoke go? It is blown directly back into our faces. So I'm asking you [smokers] to be considerate of others and use the smoking shelters where you can gas yourselves in peace.

**Rebecca Witwicki, Casa Loma**

*I hear you but, for better or for worse, smokers have rights too. As much as smokers should be considerate of*

*smoking close to the entrance of a building, the only thing the college can do is to implement a 'no smoking zone' around entrances and on pathways leading up to the college. The Hospital For Sick Children has done this around some of their entrances, for obvious reasons. It's unfortunate that adults can't follow the advice they give their children.*

—Ed.

Dear Editor.

I have been reading the Dialog since I started school here almost three years ago. For the most part I like the new look you have developed. You also seem to have developed a number of good writers.

There is one regular column, however, that your paper could do without. *Torrid Love* is the most pornographic trash I have ever read in a school newspaper.

The most recent column on masturbation was about as trashy as I could take.

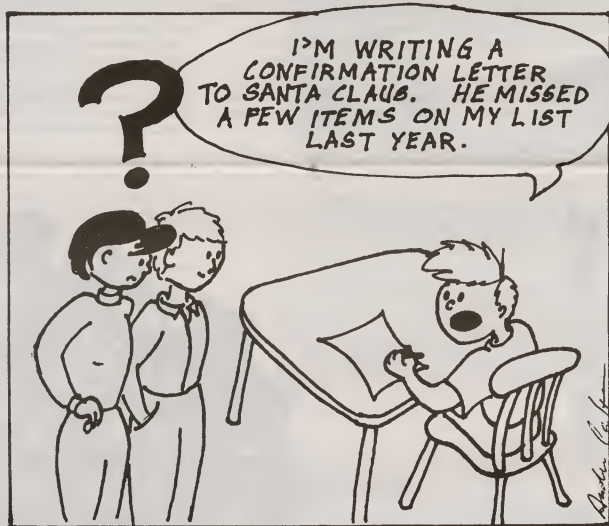
If you want to attract more readers you should have stories about students and what they are thinking and doing, not stories about pervers.

**Albert Edwards, St. James**

*I'm pretty sure the contents of Torrid Love are EXACTLY the kinds of things students are doing and thinking about.*

—Ed.

Letters to the Editor should be less than one hundred words and must include your name and affiliation with the college. We welcome letters on all subjects but reserve the right to edit for clarity, language space restrictions. Email addresses and location of the dialog office are included on the masthead.



## A Fond Farewell

by Kari Macknight

It is with regret that *dialog* bids adieu to our Advertising Manager, Jerry Grymek. Jerry has been with the paper for three years and has been instrumental in bringing us into the company of the more respectable and respected papers that make up the Canadian student press. As Advertising Manager, Jerry was responsible for finding advertisers, especially ones

willing to address the purchasing power of a group with hardly any money—that's us, the students, by the way.

Even Campus Plus, our national advertising agency, recognized *dialog's* out-of-left-field entrance into the real world by asking Jerry to speak at the Ontario conference of the Canadian University Press.

Although I've only known Jerry for about six weeks, I respect him as

someone who has the balls to remind the editor where the money for her printing costs actually comes from. Where the heck are my CMYK full-page ads anyway, Jerry?

An editor has to realize that words alone to not a great paper make, and that it's those who contribute in other ways that help you enjoy your job. We all wish you the best of luck in your PR studies at Humber College, Jerry.

# Access Denied: Cuts affect those most in need

by Derek Cassidy

The Ontario government is downplaying the reports of massive spending cuts to education, but some students are worried enough to reconsider going to college.

The cuts, although below the originally rumored \$800 million, has left students facing the prospect of higher tuition, fewer educational resources and less financial support.

For students like Denise Lutze, 19, the proposed cuts will put post-secondary education completely out of reach. She has already taken a year off after graduating from high school because she was not eligible for full OSAP funding. Now, she says her plans to start college next September may have to be scrapped as well.

"My dad makes too much money. They (OSAP) say he should be paying a certain amount, but after he pays the bills there's not much left over," she says.

Her father, Bill, says he makes decent money working as a forklift mechanic, but he's still paying off loans he took out five years ago when he went back to school. He says his debt load was of little relevance when his daughter's loan was assessed. He says the government needs to take individual consideration when assessing eligibility.

"They just look at how much you make an hour," he says. "They don't care about how much it costs you just to get by every month."

Lutze, who will have another daughter

ready to start college in two years, says Denise has worked hard to get into college and refuses to see her lose out. He says he'll try to get another bank loan to compensate for the expenses not covered by OSAP.

Bob Denny shares Lutze's frustration. His son will graduate from high school in two years and he is worried there will be no help available by then.

Denny, a farmer and part-time truck driver, was relying on OSAP to pay for his son's education. He says the government is jeopardizing the future of an entire generation by making post-secondary education an impossible goal.

Denny says middle and low-income families are being disregarded so the province can save money and worries that Ontario will produce "a workforce only qualified to pump gas or serve coffee."

Parents and students aren't the only ones worried about the cuts. Dave Jones has worked as a high school guidance counsellor for 22 years and one of his functions is helping students who are having trouble choosing a school or program. His primary concern is the change that tuition hikes make to OSAP default rates.

The province intends to lower the percentage rate for OSAP default. As it stands, post-secondary institutions are required to share liability for programs with a 33 per cent default rate or higher. There is a fear that by lowering the rate, many programs will be either ineligible

for OSAP funding or eliminated by the colleges.

Jones says it makes it difficult to advise his students when he doesn't know if certain programs will be available next year.

"Students come to me under the impression that the only concern for admission (to a program) is their grades. The reality is becoming less about grades and more about money," he says.

"Many students who come to me now have to worry about tuition costs and OSAP funding first and academics second." Jones agrees with students' rights groups who feel post-secondary education is in danger of becoming a luxury reserved for the rich.

For adult students who are upgrading their education, there is additional problem. In addition to cuts to schools and changes to OSAP, there is also a possibility of welfare and UIC recipients losing their funding.

Tracy Griffin, 25, returned to school last year to complete her high school diploma. She says she was only able to do so because she had financial sponsorship from welfare. Her plan was to apply to college programs for September 2000, when her youngest son started school. However, she now says it probably won't happen.

"They want people off welfare and getting jobs, but to do that you have to go to school. I can't afford to support myself and the kids and go to school as it is, how

am I supposed to do it if they take all the money away?" she asks.

"I wanted to be a social worker to help young women who were stuck in the system, but now I'm going to be one of those women."

Griffin says she has no marketable skills and only finished her high school diploma because her welfare case worker told her it was the only way she could go to college.

These cuts to education seem to be hitting the hardest where the money is most needed.

*Derek Cassidy is a student in the Electronic Desktop Composition program at St. James.*

Feel strongly about cuts to education? Do you want to know where the money will come from to fund the next year of your program? Are you angry? Tell dialog all about it. Write a letter to the editor today.

## Erratum

There was an omission from the Y2K.8 issue's coverage of the OCMC Awards. We missed Kamon Sit's name from the list of winners. The dialog Collective regrets the error.



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# U of T portfolio smells like smoke

by Nicola Luksic

The Varsity (University of Toronto) TORONTO (CUP)—Members of the academic community are furious that the University of Toronto is holding on to millions of dollars worth of controversial tobacco stock.

At the end of September of this year U of T held nearly \$18 million worth of shares in Imasco, the holding company for Imperial Tobacco.

"This is entirely inappropriate," said U of T professor Joanna Cohen, a public health scientist who works with the Ontario Tobacco

Research Unit. "It's a conflict of interest, particularly for a university with a medical school," David Robinson, director of public policy with the Canadian Association of University Teachers, says universities should maintain a certain standard when directing their endowment and pension funds.

"It's beneath the university to be

investing in corporations that engage in highly immoral activities," said Robinson. "Universities, as public institutions, should have the highest ethical standards in their investments."

But Robert Prichard, U of T president and Imasco's director, says investment managers hired by the university are expected to obtain the best rate of return within the confines of the University's investment policies.

"The University is obliged to invest its pension and endowment funds to achieve the highest long-run rate of return among legally proper investments," said Prichard. He says the University has no jurisdiction over what particular companies gain

access to U of T funds.

In the early 1990s, a committee was established at U of T to assess whether it would be plausible to divest from tobacco stocks. The proposal was unanimously overturned.

Prichard also points out that U of T is only doing what other Canadian universities are doing.

"I believe every university in Canada has the same position on investment of its pension and endowment assets," he said.

But Cohen asserts it is time for public institutions to take a stand and pull out of investments in lethal products.

"Tobacco is clearly a deadly product," she said. "It's the only legal product that kills its users when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer."

Robinson adds that universities could easily direct their funds to benefit the community.

"The money easily could be invested in more ethical ways and in ways that would

promote the general public interest," he said.

Prichard has been sitting on the Imasco board since 1993. Last spring he was targeted in a special report published by the British Medical Journal for playing the dual role of Imasco director and university head.

Imasco president and CEO Brian Levitt is a cabinet member of U of T's Campaign—the fund-raising initiative with the goal of attracting \$575-million in private sector donations.

"There is an increasing blurring between the private and public sector," commented Robinson.

**"It's the only legal product that kills its users when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer"**

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# Talking about love, not sex

Dear Torri

I don't have any questions about my sex life because I believe that is my own business. I can't believe anyone would seriously write to you about oral sex or masturbation. I know you asked for more letters, so I hope you will answer one that has more to do with headspace than plumbing. My question has to do with feelings.

I have known of a woman in my class to see her for about two years now. I haven't talked to her much but I know her name and smile if I see her in the hallway.

Towards the end of last semester we were put together as partners to make a presentation. Well, Torri, I have to confess that all those late nights and working closely together, I started to watch her as we worked. I suddenly realized that I found her very attractive. She is smart, we are interested in the same things and I have now got this huge crush on her. I of course have said nothing and she has no idea how I feel. I'm already in a relationship, but recently I have been day dreaming about my presentation partner.

I imagine we are going out together, we go for walks and meet my friends and family. Sometimes I imagine we are SCUBA diving, something I discovered we both enjoy.

So here is the problem: Do I tell my classmate how I feel about her? If I do, what happens if she rejects me? How do I begin a relationship? Is it a good idea? Isn't this a little like office dating, (how can you work with them if it doesn't work out)? And how about my current girlfriend? How do I dump her without her getting mad at me? I'm having trouble sleeping at night worrying about this. Please answer this letter in the paper.

—Sleepless

Dear Sleepless,

There is no such thing as a breakup where someone doesn't get mad/sad/rejected. Before you even consider telling your classmate how you

feel, take a good look at your current relationship and try to figure out if you're interested in this new person because: a) your current partner is not the person for you; b) you are simply scared/tired because you have been with your current partner for some time and feel too comfortable/sex is no longer exciting/the daily doldrums get to you; c) your presentation partner is the exact person you have envisioned yourself with for some time who has finally come into your life; d) you'll always be looking for

easier to be miserable and silent than take a chance and risk rejection but long term it's way less satisfying.

If d) is you then get a life-people like that make it hard for the rest of us to be happy.

I think that regardless, you probably need to do a little more digging. What do you really know about your classmate? Does she have a significant other? Is this a lustful crush or do you really want to be with her? Is this about wanting your classmate or wanting out of your current

wieners. We are generally flattered and sorry that we can't return feelings. But that's not to say that your classmate won't return your affections. She may have been secretly lusting after you for months.

1. reflect
  2. plan
  3. go for it
- Good luck,  
Torri

Dear Torri,

No questions... I'll keep you posted... but I do have a comment.

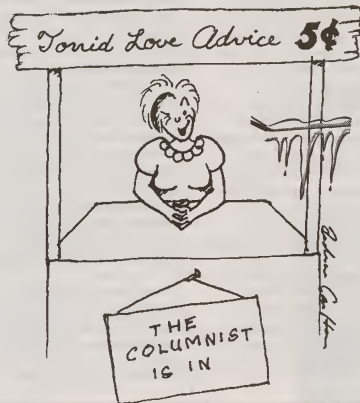
I just read your column in the latest Dialog and... unfortunately I was having lunch at the time... I am totally grossed out by the submission by the guy who wanted to know if it was okay to "jerk off" in the washroom here at GB!

First of all, let me say that there are some people who get off by getting a rise (pardon the pun) out of advice columnists by submitting imaginative and outrageous questions. (Decent, respectful people just don't masturbate in public washrooms.) But, if this guy is for real... on the other hand... I just certainly hope that he isn't in a Hospitality program! Gawd! If his class begins at 7:00 am, like mine does, then it's likely that he is in a baking or culinary program! If he's "getting off" here, between classes... mind you... he's likely not giving any thought to sanitation! I can never eat another student prepared meal again!

(I don't care for any added "special" sauce, thank you.)

This guy should also keep in mind that when he leaves here and enters into a real culinary workplace setting... if he gets caught... and as you said, others know what you're doing in that stall... it may mean losing your job. So yeah, for the love of all things bright and beautiful, please be the "master of your own domain" while you're here at GB.

—Pillsbury Dough Girl  
(Poke me and die!)



the next "best thing".

If a) rings true for you, try talking to your partner to see if you can find some common ground and then make a decision.

If b) describes how you feel when you are really honest with yourself then see a). Your partner may be feeling the same way and be interested in revving the relationship up again if you are.

If c) best describes your feelings then you have to learn to take a risk. It's way

relationship?

You have some tough thinking to do and then maybe some even tougher actions to take. Good luck. Have courage and know that the world won't explode if things don't work out as you'd like. You may be humiliated for a few days but that will subside.

One final tip from a female perspective: we don't think that men who are seriously interested in us (but for whom we have no feelings) are idiots or

# POWER OF THE PRESS

The *dialog* Collective, publishers of *dialog*, George Brown College's exclusive student community newspaper, are looking for a few good people to help us shake the foundations. We deliver news and views to GBC every second Friday. You don't have to be a journalist and you don't have to have any experience. Drop by Room 159A at St. James campus today!

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# A Child's Christmas in Scarborough

by Allan Stokell

It was just a few years ago that a local wag did a spin-off of Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' for CBC Radio. It was called 'A Child's Christmas in Scarborough' and was a scathing narrative of life in the jungle of highrises and crime.

My own memories of Christmas in Scarborough are somewhat different. The Scarborough where I was born looks out over the North Sea, to Denmark. It is an Edwardian spa town built on top of a fishing village. They still fish out of Scarborough today but now much of the Edwardian façade is crumbling.

In the 1940s, Scarborough was just a bit too close to the war for comfort. My early memories of our family Christmases are blurred by time and distance but have that warm glow of nostalgia. Jobs were scarce in post-war Britain, and my father was glad to find work chopping down trees for firewood. Food rationing and very little disposable income kept celebrations of Christmas to a minimum. Butter and eggs and just about anything imported were still almost impossible to find. Although Britain had won the war, the victory was a bittersweet one.

This didn't stop my mother, one of the defenders of the faith, from ensuring we had a memorable Christmas. For us Anglicans, Christmas actually begins with Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Advent is a period when Christians are awaiting the coming of their Saviour. I have memories of going to the Advent services and listening to the Carols and Lessons, a series of Advent

songs and readings from the Bible.

As Christmas approached, I remember hearing about Father Christmas. In North America, we have Santa, a stout example of our holiday excesses. In post-war Europe, Father Christmas was a slimmed-down Santa. His sack often contained coal for the bad children, rather than the excess of gifts we see today. Being too young to attend the midnight service, we went to our churches for the early evening service then off to bed, with a coal fire in our room. For the life of me, even though Dad was in the wood trade, I can't remember having a Christmas tree. Christmas morning I woke early. Our Christmas stocking always contained

over fifty years, so we know nothing of hard times and rationing.

Our new family tradition has us dress our tree on Christmas Eve. We don't take it down until Epiphany in January, so we have to make sure we don't have it up too early. Our tree comes dressed with some lights, but mostly an assortment of decorations (many homemade) and an ancient garland made of popcorn and cranberries. After dressing the tree and enjoying a few other Yuletide potables like eggnog, we walk to church for the 11:30 p.m. carol service. Even our nine-year-old son Edan takes in the late service. It keeps him from waking too early the next day.



A new tradition I am starting this year has to do with sharing our blessings. Usually, I give small gifts to a number of special friends and associates at this time of year. To be candid, I have been a recipient of these kinds of gifts for years and I cannot remember who gave me what. I think these well-meaning gifts ended up at one of our frequent yard sales.

This year I am taking the money I normally spend on these small gifts and using it to share with people who may not be able to sit with their families at Christmas. The homeless, the displaced, the 'marginalized', the abused. I invite you to do this also. At this time of year Christians are asked to celebrate the birth of their Saviour. He said, I was naked and you clothed me, I was hungry and you fed me. He challenges us to share our many gifts on the celebration of His birthday. Merry Christmas.

impossible treats. Real oranges from Spain or Africa, nuts that required infinite skill to liberate the meat from the shell and a Cadbury chocolate bar that had somehow avoided export. There was always the obligatory underwear and pajamas, and socks and one gift; a toy that I would play with for at least a year until we once again repeated this family ritual.

How different our celebrations are today. We are much more prosperous than our parents. We haven't seen a war in

## A message from your Student Association president

by Jerome Adamo

Hey everybody out there at G.B.C! It gives me great pleasure to wish you, on behalf of everyone here at the Student Association, a great and much deserved Winter Break in the upcoming weeks. What else can I say but to have lots of fun doing what you have planned or will be planning during this BREAK and see ya next semester! And remember, "Awareness is one thing! Action is another!"

## Women's Centre Clothing and Toy Drive off to a great start

by Alda Kang

The prospect of spending some quality time this holiday season with family and friends is heartwarming; and celebrating in some excess is always something to look forward to. Tough financial times are, for some, a distant past and consumerism is at a high. Yet in a time where strong financial gains are a reality, the gap between rich and poor widens. Massive cuts to social programs leave many people struggling to make ends meet.

This year the Women's Centre at George Brown College has started a holiday clothing and toy drive to help students who are in need. It is the first such effort by the Women's Centre and has gotten off to a very good start.

Fariba Fard, coordinator of the Women's Centre at Casa Loma and volunteer at St. James, was compelled to start the project after volunteering last year and finding there were a lot of students at GBC who are in need.

Answering questions like "Why doesn't Santa like us?" and gifts bought from Goodwill is hard to make Christmas a reality for your kids.

After faxing 45 proposals to different corporations and finding no donations because of lack of charitable number, she contacted Shannon Montgomery and Mr. Harney of the Salvation Army, a group that is well known for lending a helping hand during the holiday season. They helped her by getting new unwrapped toys for the holiday drive.

Ms. Fard would like to thank the people who have made this project possible and all of the students, volunteers and coordinators of the Women's Centre. She is excited that this project has gotten off to such a good start and hopes to continue next year. For students who are in need of a helping hand, you can contact Fariba at the Women's Centre at (416) 415-4038.

## Open Access Computer Lab Holiday Hours

December 20-23: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

December 24: 9 a.m. to noon

December 25-January 2: CLOSED

January 3-7: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

January 8 & 9: CLOSED

January 10: Regular Hours Resume

# The *dialog* Holiday G

## Winter Smoothie

from Martha Stewart Living  
Serves 4

2 1/2 cups pineapple juice  
2 1/2 cups fresh orange juice, plus  
orange segments for garnish  
1/4 cup plain yogurt  
1 banana, peeled and halved  
3 tablespoons honey  
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, plus more for  
garnish

Fill one ice cube tray with pineapple  
juice and another with orange juice.  
Place in freezer until frozen, several  
hours or overnight. Place the yogurt,  
banana, honey and cinnamon in a  
blender and process until smooth.  
Transfer to a bowl and set aside.  
Rinse the blender and fill with the  
pineapple ice cubes and the remaining  
pineapple juice. Process until smooth.  
Divide among four glasses, top with  
reserved yogurt mixture and place in  
the freezer. Meanwhile, process the  
orange juice ice cubes and remaining  
orange juice in the blender. Remove  
filled glasses from freezer and top  
with the orange juice slush. Garnish  
each glass with the orange segments  
and the cinnamon, if desired. Serve  
immediately.

## Christmas Traditions De

by Winifred Baylis

Christmas is a fascinating melange of  
Christian and pagan traditions. It is  
interesting to observe that many people  
believe that Christ's birthday actually  
more than likely occurred in the spring.  
Two biblical facts support this belief.  
One is that it is believed that Mary and  
Joseph were in Bethlehem to be taxed.

There are ancient records to show that  
this would not take place in the dead of  
winter when people would have to  
travel in great discomfort. The second  
supporting piece of evidence that Christ  
might be an Aries is the part about  
'shepherds watched their flocks by  
night.' Traditionally, shepherds did this  
only during the lambing season, which  
is in the spring.

If this is the case, and Christ was not  
born on December 25, then why do  
Christians celebrate Christmas at this  
time?

There are a couple of possible  
answers. Firstly, it is the winter solstice.  
The Romans celebrated this festival. It  
is believed that the Christians,  
persecuted by the Romans, hid their  
celebrations by having them concurrent  
with Roman holidays.

### Christmas Cards

This custom started in Britain the  
1840s when the first 'penny post' public  
postal service began. Aided by the new  
railway system, it was possible for  
everyone in the United Kingdom to  
receive a letter. At the time, it was as  
revolutionary as email seems to us  
today.

### The Christmas Tree

Believed to be one of the traditions of  
the Norse or Germanic peoples. It may  
even be tied to Santa Lucia, the Sicilian  
saint who became the patron saint of  
light. Often trees were dressed with  
candles (Don't try this at home!).

Scandinavians still have a parade of  
virgins carrying crowns of candles on  
their heads on St. Lucy day, December  
13.

### Singing carols

These popular hymns of a joyful  
nature date back to 15th century  
England. They may have been adapted  
from pagan folk songs.

### Santa Claus

The Santa we know in North America  
is actually the invention of the Coca  
Cola Company of the late 19th century.  
In Europe in years past, there was  
Father Christmas. He was much  
slimmer than Santa Claus and did not  
live at the North Pole. He is based on  
Saint Nicholas, the Turkish saint from  
the 4th century who secretly gave  
money to poor families. The tradition  
states that once he dropped the money  
down the chimney it fell into children's  
stockings.

by Alda Kang

All right all you guys and gals  
out there with no idea what to get  
for your significant other this  
holiday season... Here's what  
you've been waiting for! The  
*dialog* holiday gift guide is all  
you need (batteries not included).

## Holiday Gift Guide

### For Her

1. Any gift that conveys the message of more housework is  
probably not a good idea. Run, don't walk, from dishwashers, pots  
and pans and the new Braun Interplak.
2. Lingerie that rides and chafes is, in my book, not the greatest.  
You know, if she's comfortable you might benefit. Just a thought.
3. A sheepskin jacket for someone who is vegan may be pushing  
the envelope a little...why not just bring her a dead sheep, for  
crying out loud?
4. Exercise equipment. Think about it...nothing says "You're  
fat!" like a gym membership or the latest Billy Blanks video.
5. Anything you've ever tried to give to a past girlfriend. Trust  
me on this one.

### For Him

1. If your man has a beard, don't get him aftershave. Well, if  
you're trying to give him a hint, that's a different story.
2. Spray-on hair. If he doesn't have an abundance of hair don't  
shatter his fragile male ego by picking this out for him.
3. Clothes that are completely NOT his style. Trying to change  
him? One word—gradual.
4. A magazine subscription to Maxim or Details. He could get  
ideas about what you're supposed to look like.
5. Socks and underwear. That's his mom's department.

## Holiday Hermit Cookies

from Canadian Living

3/4 cup butter, softened  
3/4 cup shortening  
2 cups brown sugar, packed  
3 eggs  
2 tsp vanilla  
3 3/4 cups all purpose flour  
1 1/2 tsp each baking powder and cin-  
namon  
1 tsp each nutmeg and ground cloves  
3/4 tsp each baking soda and salt  
2 cups dried cranberries or cherries  
1 1/2 each golden raisins and chopped  
dates  
1 cup toffee bits (you can use Skor  
bars)

Line baking sheets with waxed paper;  
set aside.

In large bowl, beat together butter,  
shortening and brown sugar until  
fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, and  
vanilla.

In separate bowl, whisk together  
flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nut-  
meg, cloves, baking soda and salt; stir  
into butter mixture until dough holds  
together. Stir in cranberries, raisins,  
dates and toffee bits.

Drop by heaping tablespoonfuls about  
2 inches apart, onto prepared baking  
sheets. Freeze 20 minutes or  
until firm.

Bake, without thawing, in centre of  
325 F oven for about 20 minutes or  
until bottoms are golden brown but  
centres are still soft. Let cool on pans  
on racks for five minutes. Transfer to  
racks; let cool completely. Makes  
about 84 cookies.

## Ram

Ramadan is the ninth month of  
that Muslims observe the Fast  
Muslims fast during the daylight  
and visit with friends and family  
A time to strengthen family and  
According to the Islamic Soci-  
for Ramadan is expected to  
Ramadan begins November 27/

## Yule— Winter Solstice

Yuletide (Teutonic), Alban A-  
(Caledonii)

Around Dec. 21

This Sabbat represents the rebir-  
light. Here, on the longest night of  
year, the Goddess gives birth to the  
God and hope for new light is reborn.

Yule is a time of awakening to  
goals and leaving old regrets be-  
Yule coincides closely with  
Christian Christmas celebra-  
Christmas was once a movable  
celebrated many different times of  
the year. The choice of December  
was made by the Pope Julius I in  
fourth century AD because  
coincided with the pagan ritual  
Winter Solstice, or Return of the  
The intent was to replace the pa-  
celebration with the Christian one.

The Christian tradition of a Chri-  
stmas tree has its origins in the Pagan Y-  
celebration. Pagan families v-



# uide mystified

## Advent

Four weeks before Christmas, most Christians are waiting for the coming of the Messiah. A wreath of leaves is made and four candles are put around the perimeter. On Sunday of each week of Advent a candle is lit. Finally, on December 25, a candle is lit in the centre to celebrate the birth of Christ.

## Boxing Day

The day following Christmas is Boxing Day. This comes from the English tradition of churches opening their alms boxes on the day after Christmas and distributing the contents. It was also a day off for domestic workers who served during the feast.

## Mistletoe

The Druids used to gather sprigs of this yellow-green plant to ensure good fortune. It was banned by the Roman church for years because of its pagan connection.

# adan

Islam calendar. It is during this month madan. Lasting for the entire month, and in the evening eat small meals a time of worship and contemplation. nunity ties.

North America the first day of fasting December 9, 1999. (In the year 2000,

bringing a live tree into the home so the wood spirits would have a place to keep warm during the cold winter months. Bells were hung in the limbs so you could tell when a spirit was present.

Food and treats were hung on the branches for the spirits to eat and a five-pointed star, the pentagram, symbol of the five elements, was placed atop the tree.

The colors of the season, red and green, also are of Pagan origin, as is the custom of exchanging gifts.

A solar festival, the reindeer stag is also a reminder of the Horned God. You will find that many traditional Christmas decorations have some type of Pagan ancestry or significance that can be added to your Yule holiday. Yule is

celebrated by fire and the use of a Yule log. Many enjoy the practice of lighting the Yule Log. Traditionally, a portion of the Yule Log is saved to be used in lighting next year's log. This piece is kept

throughout the year to protect the home.

## Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa takes place from December 26 to January 1, and is an occasion to celebrate African culture and black heritage. From the Swahili phrase that means "first fruits" — *matunda ya kwanza* — Kwanzaa is observed by millions of people worldwide. Created by American professor Maulana Karenga in 1966, the event reinforces the Nguzo Saba, the seven basic values of African culture.

## The Nguzo Saba

Umoja—unity  
Kujichagulia—self-determination  
Ujima—collective work and responsibility  
Ujamaa—cooperative economics  
Nia—purpose  
Kumba—creativity  
Imani—faith

## Warm Goat Cheese Dip

from Canadian Living  
1 tbsp butter  
1/4 cup minced shallots or red onion  
1/2 cup milk  
1 tsp red wine vinegar  
1/2 tsp granulated sugar  
4 oz light cream cheese  
8 oz chèvre (goat cheese), crumbled or cubed  
3 tbsp minced fresh chives  
1 tbsp minced fresh parsley  
1/4 hot pepper flakes

In small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat; cook shallots, stirring occasionally, for about 5 minutes or until tender. Stir in milk, vinegar, sugar and cream cheese; cook, whisking, until blended.

Add goat cheese and heat, stirring, until smooth. Stir in chives, parsley and hot-pepper flakes. Serve warm. Makes 2 cups.

business jet. Mind you, the price does not include the cost of furnishing said jet, which seller Neiman Marcus says they can easily arrange to suit the buyer. Unfortunately for GBC students, there isn't a landing strip within walking distance of a campus. You might end up having to take the TTC from the nearest airport anyway. And because they value you as a customer, NM says that if you purchase this \$35 million item, one of their personal shoppers will contact you for assistance. Talk about earning your business. Visit [neimanmarcus.com](http://neimanmarcus.com) if your credit limit is high enough. Believe it not, you can actually buy this item online.

4. Also at Neiman Marcus in the Fantasy Gifts section: One of four surviving copies of "The Night Before Christmas" is available for \$795,000. The autographed copy comes in a "beautiful leather folder." I bloody well hope so.

Here's one I particularly like. Adopt an acre of rain forest. The trouble is that it costs \$200,000. This would be a great gift, although you might want to visit your new corner of the world often enough to make sure it is being taken care of to your specifications. I mean, I'm sure there is more than one way to clearcut.

# Money No Object?

Here a few things to make the season merry and bright, that is, if you've got the green...

by Kari Macknight

1. Buy your best gal the Victoria's Secret Millennium bra. A bargain at about \$10 million, it's one piece of lingerie you don't want to be leaving behind somewhere. If you can afford it, though, you'd probably be miffed that it'll show through all your best t-shirts. Visit Victoria's Secret on the Web at [www.victoriasecret.com](http://www.victoriasecret.com)

2. Board the Concorde and fly around the world this New Year's. For the bargain basement price of \$75,000 you can join the exclusive "Around the World by Private Concorde." This Robin Leach-esque tour takes you to Honolulu, Sydney (Australia), Delhi, Kenya and Cairo, and New Year's Eve will be in Hong Kong. The trip lasts 18 days and includes meals, hotels and almost everything else. Yes, even the airfare. Deep pockets? Call Intrav at (800) 456-8100.

3. For about 17.5 million times the price of a ride on the TTC, you can own your very own private Boeing

## Glazed Nut Wreath

from Kari's mum, who got it from Canadian Living in 1986  
1/4 cup butter  
1/4 cup corn syrup  
1 cup granulated sugar  
4 cups salted mixed nuts (roughly two cans)

In a large, heavy skillet, melt together butter, corn syrup and sugar. Add nuts and cook, stirring over medium-high heat for 10 to 15 minutes, or until nuts are caramel-coloured. Spoon layer of nut mixture onto greased foil in wreath shape. Spoon remaining mixture on top to make wreath higher and rounded. Let cool slightly then adjust shape with back of spoon. Let cool completely then peel off the foil. Place wreath on tray and decorate as desired. To serve, break wreath into small pieces with a mallet and arrange in candy dish.

## Hanukkah (Chanukah)

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrating a

miracle from back in the times when the Maccabees had won a victory over the Syrians, who were oppressing the Hebrews.

After their victory over the Syrians, the Maccabees wished to re-dedicate the

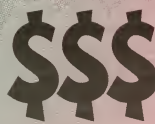
Holy Temple in Jerusalem. But they found they had only enough oil to light the lamps of the temple for one night. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight nights, long enough for new oil to be properly prepared.

It varies in time on the Western calendar, but Hanukkah generally falls in December (sometimes in late November). Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, the day the Maccabees re-dedicated the temple over 2000 years ago.

At nightfall, beginning on December 3 (this year) one candle is added each night, starting from the right and going

to the left. Then the candles are lit from the newest one on the left and then one by one to the right.

The ninth candle, the Shamash, is used for lighting the other candles and is usually set a little apart from the others in the middle of the Menorah.



# "Performance-Enhancing" Meds Make Nipissing Plan

## North Bay college staff find Viagra in their Christmas stockings

by Andrew Sunstrum

TORONTO (CUP)—Nipissing University's Board of Governors has passed a motion to give staff a bigger than usual Christmas bonus.

Just in time for Christmas, the Board agreed to add the drug Viagra to the University employee group benefits package.

The impotency fighting drug, which costs around \$9 a pill, will now be covered up to a maximum of \$1,200 per year by the festive institution's drug plan.

"It happens to be absolutely just a coincidence," said Connie VanderWall with a giggle. As Nipissing's director of Human Resources, VanderWall is charged with keeping the University's staff animated.

Eight other Ontario universities have already added the drug to their benefits packages, while the rest are presently considering the addition.

Some universities that have been mentioned as already passing the drug are the University of Toronto, Brock, Queen's, Guelph, Waterloo, York and Lakehead.

After studying the costs and benefits of Viagra for a year the Board's pension and benefits committee initiated the fruitful gesture.

"It will restore some dignity and quality of life to them if they do so choose," explained VanderWall.

Comparing Viagra to birth control pills, VanderWall said the university didn't want its drug plan to discriminate.

"It's just getting a lot of press because it's about sex," she added.

### OTHER NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPUSES ACROSS CANADA



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Evening & Weekend Service!

by Daliah Merzaban

Canadian delegation gives WTO protestors mixed reviews

SEATTLE (CUP)—During and after last week's massive protest against the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the streets of downtown Seattle, Canadian officials offered mixed responses to the messages presented by protesters.

Tens of thousands of protesters from across North America were in Seattle on Tuesday, Nov. 30, to protest the launch of the third ministerial conference of the WTO, a 135-country organisation discussing trade issues.

Carefully-organised peaceful protests about human rights, environmental and labour issues, among others, successfully closed down the conference's opening ceremonies and cancelled much of Tuesday's ministerial negotiations. They also managed to gain the attention and support of top Canadian officials.

Our country's Minister of International Trade, Pierre Pettigrew, expressed sympathy for the protesters and their messages.

"I believe that Canada and the Canadian government is open to hearing different points of view," Pettigrew told the Canadian University Press. "We want to reflect Canadian society as well as possible. So when it is not violent, I actually welcome the possibility of dialogue."

Former British Columbia Premier Glen Clark, who marched in a morning rally, also supported the protesters' cause.

Clark, who was having trouble trying to pass a barricade of protesters seated in front of the Sheraton Hotel Tuesday afternoon, said he hopes that the WTO will take protesters' concerns to heart, particularly for Canada's benefit.

"We're really concerned about the implications of the WTO on our environmental policy and on our social policies," said Clark, who was in Seattle to sit on a

committee discussing private sector issues.

Throughout the day, large organisations, small groups and individuals staged peaceful rallies and put up displays to convey some very clear, strong and often unique messages.

"This is our own personal resistance in direct relationship to art and voice," said Jennica, an organiser of a roadblock in the middle of a downtown intersection.

Surrounding a protester's mural that portrayed abstract images of environmental degradation was a circle of individuals who had locked their arms with metal pipes wrapped in thick duct tape.

Handing out poetry and spoken word pieces these demonstrators had a clear message to send.

"The idea of this entire action is that we're resisting against the commodification of art and the commodification of voices, which is something that we feel like the WTO does by going one step further and putting prices and values on people's lives," said Jennica.

She added that the aim of the roadblock was to prevent delegates from meeting to negotiate trade issues. Roadblocks conveying a series of messages went up at other intersections as well.

"We're using human bodies along with technology to literally prevent any cars from coming through," she said.

But as the day progressed, random acts of violence and looting began to overshadow the protesters' messages.

A group calling itself the "Black Block" took to the streets, smashing windows and spraying graffiti on walls of businesses throughout downtown Seattle—including Starbucks, Banana Republic and the Bank of America.

Black Block member Josh defended his group's actions. He called the police "traitors to democracy," and urged

people to "take back what is rightfully yours."

"All the people on the WTO meeting, they play on how to hurt working people, and the vast majority of people, and how to damage our living so that they can increase their profits. That is the violence. That's what's causing the violence," said Josh, who lives in Seattle.

"Breaking windows, it's just a window, and I haven't seen anybody getting hurt.

The violence is the police shooting rubber bullets and using tear gas on people. That is the violence," he added.

But these actions drew criticism from other officials. "I don't think [the protest] does anything for anybody, quite frankly," Canada's WTO ambassador Sergio Marchi told CUP after escaping a mob of protesters.

Protesters gathered in front of the entrance to the Sheraton Hotel blocked Marchi as he tried to return to his hotel room. "Come on, this is America," Marchi told the protesters who had locked arms around him.

"Shame on you, Sergio," one protester called out, followed by dozens of people chanting "shame" repeatedly. Marchi escaped the crowd after some protesters urged the others to let him go peacefully.

"We just want [the WTO] to work, and I think the NGOs are going to get an extremist perception as the cameras around the world will see. It's a double loss, so no one wins," said Marchi, who doubted that the protests will have an impact on negotiations.

"The show will go on," he added.

Although the demonstrations died down Wednesday, demonstrators gathered in front of the Sand Point jail last Thursday to protest the arrests of at least 450 people.

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# Talking about love, not sex

Dear Torri

I don't have any questions about my sex life because I believe that is my own business. I can't believe anyone would seriously write to you about oral sex or masturbation. I know you asked for more letters, so I hope you will answer one that has more to do with headspace than plumbing. My question has to do with feelings.

I have known of a woman in my class to see her for about two years now. I haven't talked to her much but I know her name and smile if I see her in the hallway.

Towards the end of last semester we were put together as partners to make a presentation. Well, Torri, I have to confess that all those late nights and working closely together, I started to watch her as we worked. I suddenly realized that I found her very attractive. She is smart, we are interested in the same things and I have now got this huge crush on her. I of course have said nothing and she has no idea how I feel. I'm already in a relationship, but recently I have been day dreaming about my presentation partner.

I imagine we are going out together, we go for walks and meet my friends and family. Sometimes I imagine we are SCUBA diving, something I discovered we both enjoy.

So here is the problem: Do I tell my classmate how I feel about her? If I do, what happens if she rejects me? How do I begin a relationship? Is it a good idea? Isn't this a little like office dating, (how can you work with them if it doesn't work out)? And how about my current girlfriend? How do I dump her without her getting mad at me? I'm having trouble sleeping at night worrying about this. Please answer this letter in the paper.

—Sleepless

Dear Sleepless,

There is no such thing as a breakup where someone doesn't get mad/sad/rejected. Before you even consider telling your classmate how you

feel, take a good look at your current relationship and try to figure out if you're interested in this new person because: a) your current partner is not the person for you; b) you are simply scared/tired because you have been with your current partner for some time and feel too comfortable/sex is no longer exciting/the daily doldrums get to you; c) your presentation partner is the exact person you have envisioned yourself with for some time who has finally come into your life; d) you'll always be looking for

easier to be miserable and silent than take a chance and risk rejection but long term it's way less satisfying.

If d) is you then get a life-people like that make it hard for the rest of us to be happy.

I think that regardless, you probably need to do a little more digging. What do you really know about your classmate? Does she have a significant other? Is this a lustful crush or do you really want to be with her? Is this about wanting your classmate or wanting out of your current

wieners. We are generally flattered and sorry that we can't return feelings. But that's not to say that your classmate won't return your affections. She may have been secretly lusting after you for months.

1. reflect
  2. plan
  3. go for it
- Good luck,  
Torri

Dear Torri,

No questions... I'll keep you posted... but I do have a comment.

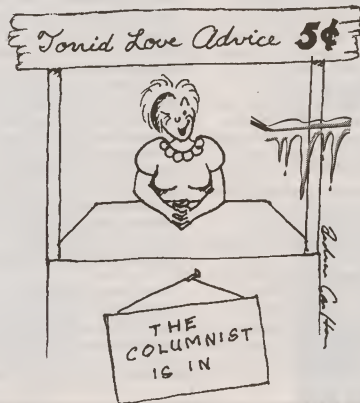
I just read your column in the latest Dialog and... unfortunately I was having lunch at the time... I am totally grossed out by the submission by the guy who wanted to know if it was okay to "jerk off" in the washroom here at GBC!

First of all, let me say that there are some people who get off by getting a rise (pardon the pun) out of advice columnists by submitting imaginative and outrageous questions. (Decent, respectful people just don't masturbate in public washrooms.) But, if this guy is for real... on the other hand... I just certainly hope that he isn't in a Hospitality program! Gawd! If his class begins at 7:00 am, like mine does, then it's likely that he is in a baking or culinary program! If he's "getting off" here, between classes... mind you... he's likely not giving any thought to sanitation! I can never eat another student prepared meal again!

(I don't care for any added "special" sauce, thank you.)

This guy should also keep in mind that when he leaves here and enters into a real culinary workplace setting... if he gets caught... and as you said, others know what you're doing in that stall... it may mean losing your job. So yeah, for the love of all things bright and beautiful, please be the "master of your own domain" while you're here at GB.

—Pillsbury Dough Girl  
(Poke me and die!)



the next "best thing".

If a) rings true for you, try talking to your partner to see if you can find some common ground and then make a decision.

If b) describes how you feel when you are really honest with yourself then see a). Your partner may be feeling the same way and be interested in revving the relationship up again if you are.

If c) best describes your feelings then you have to learn to take a risk. It's way

relationship?

You have some tough thinking to do and then maybe some even tougher actions to take. Good luck. Have courage and know that the world won't explode if things don't work out as you'd like. You may be humiliated for a few days but that will subside.

One final tip from a female perspective: We don't think that men who are seriously interested in us (but for whom we have no feelings) are idiots or

# POWER OF THE PRESS

The *dialog* Collective, publishers of *dialog*, George Brown College's exclusive student community newspaper, are looking for a few good people to help us shake the foundations. We deliver news and views to GBC every second Friday. You don't have to be a journalist and you don't have to have any experience. Drop by Room 159A at St. James campus today!

## Volunteer Positions

### Distribution Manager

You are a mature student with an excellent driving record. You can consistently volunteer three hours every second Friday morning to distribute *dialog* to all three campuses. A vehicle is provided for deliveries.

### Office Assistants

You have the desire to work in a fast-paced office environment where you are part of a team producing a bi-weekly student community newspaper.

### Horoscope Writer

Notice we didn't say astrologist. Can you write fun and entertaining horoscopes on a bi-weekly basis? Come see us.

## Paid Position

### Advertising Sales Representative

Working with our Advertising Manager, you will be able to generate new community advertising participation and earn valuable commission while working toward a placement position. We will train for ALL positions.

# Sports

## Huskies Hoops Need Help

by **Sabrina Denomme**

GEORGE BROWN MEN'S HUSKIES RULE THE CENTRAL BASKETBALL REGION

Top dog in the Central Region to date is the George Brown Huskies. It's already mid season and the men have managed to build a 3-2 record. The competition is fierce with Sheridan, Centennial and Humber trailing by a game each. The reason for this year's success can be directly linked to the fact that three GBC players are currently ranked in the top ten standings based on individual statistics.

On November 24, both GBC basketball teams hosted Durham in a doubleheader. The men's team dominated much of the game but Durham kept the score close. It wasn't until the later minutes of the fourth quarter that the Huskies started to gain a comfortable lead. Durham was handed their third loss of the season in a 66-57 loss.

Two days later the team traveled to Scarborough to play their fifth league game of the season. The Centennial Colts appeared to be chomping at the bit for much of the game but it wasn't enough for stop the "Wild Winning Huskies" from leaving with a 71-55 win.

Coach Willie Delas is impressed with the grit and determination his team is showing so far this season. He is hoping that the team can continue to play at this level in the New Year. Not only is the coach anticipating the millennium but so is the team. The Huskies are back in action during the second weekend in January as they host their Annual College tournament.

### INCONSISTENCY LEAVES LADY HUSKIES STRUGGLING

In the course of a month, the Huskies have had six regular season games and approach the midpoint of the season with

a record two wins and four losses. For the most part, each and every game was a hard fought battle, with the exceptions of losses to Fanshawe (76-36) and Humber (86 to 51). The two victories occurred on our home court against Niagara (59 to 48) and Durham (65 to 48). The most recent game on November 30 pitted the Huskies to face their archnemesis, the Mohawk Mountaineers. This was the same team that eliminated George Brown in the quarterfinals last year. Again, similar to last year's game, the Huskies started out strong but inconsistencies in play resulted in Mohawk pulling away midway through and never looking back. The Mountaineers prevailed by winning 67 to 41.

Inconsistency. This seems to be the dominant trait of the Lady Huskies. From one moment the team plays superb and the next moment team falls apart. It is this

aspect that leaves the team disgruntled. "It's so hard", claims guard Traci-Ann Lawrence, "we have the talent to stay with the top teams but we can't seem to get it together." Traci-Ann also says that the team chemistry just isn't there yet, and this probably results from poor attendance in practice.

Coach Sharon Butler agrees with Traci-Ann's sentiment. "We just need the bodies to come to practice so everyone is on the same page," says Butler. But when asked if this team is capable for a championship, Butler just smiles. "This year, there is no dominant force in the league and any team can win." She continues, "we just need to buckle down and learn how to play as a team."

Next game on the Lady Huskies schedule is versus Redeemer on December 8. This will be the final game before the new year. Happy Holidays!

## The Student Association is looking for you!

We have several positions available to students for the spring semester.

We require:

### A Chief Returning Officer

This is a paid position for Spring 2000 only

### Women's Centre Coordinator

This is an unpaid placement position for Spring 2000 with the possibility to continue into Fall 2000.

### Food Bank Coordinator

This is an unpaid placement position for Spring 2000 with the possibility to continue into Fall 2000.

### Food Bank Driver (2)

This is a paid position for the spring semester. Must be at least 25 years of age and have a valid drivers licence.

Applicants for these positions should drop a resume to any Student Association office with a note indicating which position you are interested in. We regret that only successful applicants will be contacted. Thanks for your interest.



**Student Association**  
- OF GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE -



The Fred Victor Employment Resource Centre is happy to announce that we are moving! Please join us at our new location as of December 14, 1999:

100 Lombard Street, Suite 102  
(off Jarvis between Richmond and Adelaide)  
Phone: 364-8986

We are wheelchair accessible and offer access to:

☞ Pentium Computers ☞ fax ☞ internet  
☞ telephones ☞ photocopier  
☞ interactive computer workshops  
☞ video and resource libraries.

We look forward to serving our existing members in our new location, and we extend an invitation to new members. We hope to see you soon!



# Holiday Horoscopes

## TIS' THE SEASON...OF EXCESS

by Dr. Andrew Miekus

**T**he season of excess is upon us. Too much study, too much food and too much drink can take its toll on our bodies. Here are some helpful hints to get you through the stress of exams and the overindulgence of the holiday season.

Exams are here and stress is a huge factor. So when it comes to study and overwork there are remedies you can take to help alleviate some of the discomfort. For nervous exhaustion and to improve memory, Kali Phos., a Schuessler Salt (Homeopathic) can help. B complex vitamins may also help to reduce stress. Remember, coffee and donuts do not have many nutrients. They may give you a temporary sugar high but you will "crash" (feel tired and sleepy) eventually. Remember to try and eat your fruits and vegetables and moderate amounts of fish and chicken throughout your exams (Mom was right). And to prevent your brain from getting too full you can try Ginkgo Biloba, which has been shown to increase circulation to the brain (as well as other areas) and improve memory.

Once the nausea of exams is over your holidays really begin, another type of nausea might set in. There will be plenty to choose from at Grandma's holiday dinner. To help prevent weight gain and discomfort over the holidays here are some helpful hints:

1. Chew your food. This will help reduce the stress on the digestive system.
  2. Try and avoid foods that you know are bad for you. Recent research has shown that people with blood type 'O' should limit their intake of dairy and wheat products and blood type 'A' individuals should stay away from red meat but can have coffee and red wine (in moderation).
  3. If you experience gas and bloating, digestive enzymes before your meal may help alleviate this discomfort. All enzymes are created equal so make sure to get some professional advice before taking these remedies.
- While celebrating the new millennium you may get an urge to have one or two extra alcoholic beverages. First I will start by saying, never drink and drive. That said, if you do overindulge remember to drink plenty of water. A hangover is a state of dehydration. B complex vitamins, the herb milk thistle and vitamin C may help to reduce the damaging effects of alcohol on your liver.

The best way to enjoy the holidays is in moderation. Here's wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season.

*Please note: The above information is of a general nature. For specific concerns and conditions always consult a health care professional.*

### Aries (March 21-April 20)

You social butterfly, you. With all the shindigs on your holiday schedule be sure not to spend all you've got. Someone close to you is expecting something very special this year and they have expensive taste. Keeping them happy is essential to your relationship, as much as that might suck. Nobody ever said life was fair.

### Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Unlike Aries, it seems your dance card is empty this year. Before you change colognes, think about what you've been brooding over lately. Is it possible you're sending out really negative signals? A partner or loved one may be deceiving you. Keep a close eye on them because they will slip up sooner or later.

### Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You're looking better than ever. Before heading out this holiday season, remember to check twice in the mirror. That IS spinach between your teeth. You will run into some one you want to impress. Don't let a salad spoil your chance for millennium night romance.

### Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Santa may decide to leave a lump of coal in your stocking if you don't shape up. What's been bugging you anyway? Get back on your horse, already. The mopey, miserable look is so last year.

### Leo (July 23-Aug. 23)

Roar like the lion you are, baby! Shout from the rooftops if you have to. Some one is listening and really wants to hear what you have to say. It's your job to find out who and secure yourself a New Year's kiss. You don't have much time left, Leo.

### Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22)

School is almost over and soon the fun will begin. Before the shortbread cookies and the eggnog, however, you'll need to get that nose to the grindstone. Don't let all your hard work go to waste. By the way, there is a Libra on your list who has been more naughty than nice. Find a subtle way of letting them know they have to change their evil ways.

### Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

If you are travelling this holiday season, remember to pack some of the essentials. You could find yourself in situations that will be facilitated with a little forward thinking on your part. Pack some condoms, an extra sweater and some waterproof matches. That way you're covering all the bases.

### Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

You always get such a bad rap. It's not your fault you were born under a sketchy astrological sign. There is a way to make the most of, though. Torment everyone around you. It'll make you feel better.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

It must be nice to be you right now. Life couldn't be better, what with all the glowing reviews you've been receiving lately. Be careful, though. Someone is buttering you up. Now is the time to milk the praise for all it's worth.

### Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Sucks to be you, what with being born so close to Christmas and all. The solution to your problem is a simple one, but you need to act fast. Send out invites for a birthday party to take place next March, citing your busy schedule and Y2K fears as reasons for the postponement. Nobody will be suspicious and you'll still get gifts under the tree.

### Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18)

It seems like work is keeping you motivated lately, so run with it. Show some initiative and you just might get a raise (or at least a pat on the back). If you are an unemployed Aquarius, look to the object of your affection for some ego stroking. If you're both jobless and loveless, there's always the classifieds.

### Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

I'm advising you to take the who-gives-a-crap approach to the holiday this year. You'd be better off sunning yourself on a beach in St. Maarten anyway. Don't forget to send me a postcard.

Something to really worry about in the new millennium...

# Nuclear Power is Green Power!

by Dwight Gooding

**M**ost consumers don't realize this, but come November of the year 2000, we will be able to buy electricity from a number of sources. Gone will be the era of monopoly held for decades by Ontario Hydro.

The new age of deregulated electricity in Ontario will allow for competition so stand by for lots of sales pitches, folks! Everyone from CanadianTire and Sears to the Church of Scientology will be able to sell you electricity delivered through the existing lines.

In markets where this has been tried before the only really significant consumer preference has been in the area of green power. That is electricity that has been produced in an environmentally friendly way, such as wind or solar power. If you subscribe to a green power provider you still will receive the energy just as you had

before and each watt delivered may not necessarily be from a green source, but the more people signed up, the more environmentally friendly power will be available on the grid. This power comes at a premium, and one provider is talking about as much as a forty percent difference. Even so, coupled with a conservation plan for your home, you could still feel good about supporting a system that will reduce greenhouse gases and be from a renewable source.

That is why on Monday, November 1 of this year, delegates to the IPPSO (Independent Power Producers Society of Ontario) conference at the Royal York Hotel could not believe their ears when their keynote speaker, the Minister of Energy said that his government considered nuclear energy to be green power. Reaction from the audience varied from boos at the back of the room to loud groans from other small power producers.

Next day Ministry officials were in damage control mode. It seems the minister was trying to make a point.

Last year when both the Darlington and Bruce nuclear facilities were down, Ontario Hydro went back to the Lakeview Generating Station as the stand by facility. It is a coal-fired facility and when in operation produces much more greenhouse gas. So evidently the minister wanted to point out that compared to burning coal to produce electricity, nuclear power was green.

Earlier, one of the lackeys of the Tories had announced that the Ontario Hydro's Bruce Nuclear Generating Station would be put up for sale. He added that they anticipated it would take some time to sell such a property. Maybe not if they can convince the gullible electorate that nuclear power is green. The minister of Energy has been watching too many episodes of The Simpsons. Just because the glowing rod that gets caught in Homers radiation suit is green doesn't mean this environmentally dangerous power is green.

"D'oh!"

# Entertainment

The holidays have come and another year is almost over. Now is the time when people usually reflect upon their lives and their accomplishments and begin to think about their New Year's resolutions...NOT US!! He and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on more serious matters...movies!

We have decided to enlighten you on some of the more choice holiday viewing fare from the past. So, while you are sitting on your couch, twiddling your thumbs and anxiously anticipating your return to our hallowed halls of academia, you might as well be enjoying a good flick or two.

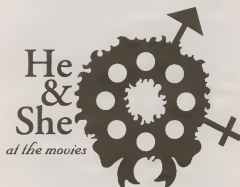
## Home Alone (1990)

Starring: Macaulay Culkin, John Heard, Daniel Stern, and Joe Pesci.

She said: Of the three movies made in this franchise (yes, I say franchise because in this case it is all about money), this one was the best. In the film, a small boy named Kevin is left "home alone" when his entire family takes off to Paris for the holidays. While his parents are desperately trying to make their way home to him, he spends his holidays warding off two thieves (played hilariously by Stern and Pesci) from the family home. It leans a touch toward the violent - the burglars meet with serious disaster—and leaving an underage minor home by himself is

frowned on by the law. But, if you can get past that, this entertaining little comedy will amuse you.

He said: ...or disturb you, depending on how you want to look at things. All the exploits that come out of poor little Kevin's abandonment, are indeed funny. And a good thing too. Break down this film to its moral points and we have a case of bad parenting used as a comedy



vehicle. But she is right...of the 3, it's the better one. While I don't necessarily think this film is a fine example of Christmas tradition, it's good for a chuckle, and at the same time adds a certain validity that children are not as fragile as we tend to think. Sometimes, they're pretty tough buggers.

## National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

Starring: Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid.

She said: It's mindless, I'll give you that. Hey, no one has ever accused Chase of being a brainiac. But this look at a Christmas gone awry is too good to pass up! Filled with lots of slapstick comedy, this movie follows the Griswold family as they celebrate the season in style. If you are looking for a film that makes you feel more appreciative about your own holiday home life, make sure this is on your rental list.

He said: Okay, now this movie is on the money. Not as uproarious as past Lampoon films, but holds its own at times. The Griswold family and all their quirky components will always be the same, and never pretend to be anything other than what they are: The original hardluck trailblazers of Murphy's Law! These movies have singlehandedly kept Chevy Chase's career afloat...still floundering, but with enough air to survive. If you're looking for a good feel good Christmas lovey dovey piece a schmalz...don't bother with this. But, if you want a great way to enjoyably let all that turkey digest, this isn't such a bad way to do it.

## Stuck for something to rent? Try these timeless classics

by Karl Macknight

The holidays are undeniably the worst time to try and rent a newly released movie from your local video store. Everybody is on vacation and looking for a way to entertain the legions of relatives and hyperactive children they can't remember inviting over. These films, although certainly not recent, are the gems most likely to get left behind in the store. Each and every one is a celluloid hootenanny.

*So I Married An Ax Murderer*—If you can find it. You really have to have some Scottish blood in you to fully appreciate this one, though.

*Fargo*—If only for the wood chipper bit. *Breakfast at Tiffany's*—I once recreated the opening scene in New York with a friend. Audrey Hepburn can do no wrong.

*A Clockwork Orange*—To be used in the event of someone severely overstaying their welcome.

*On Golden Pond*—Bear witness to the big screen interpretation of lifelong love and dysfunctional family living.

*Antz*—Woody Allen at his least nauseating, well, his voice at least.

*A Night on Earth*—Jim Jarmusch trying to please half the UN in one film. Ride a taxi around the world and meet some unhappy folks.

## Twelve Films for the Twelve Days of Christmas

### 1. A Christmas Story (1993)

Sean Shepherd, who grew up in the 40s, wrote and narrates this tale about a boy and his wish for a Red Ryder air rifle for Christmas. Can you believe that the guy who directed this also directed Porky's?

### 2. A Christmas Carol (1984)

In my opinion, this is the best version of the Dickens classic, even if it is a TV movie. The late George C. Scott is great as Scrooge.

### 3. The Simpson's Christmas Special

The very first Simpson's episode (not including Tracy Ullman). After using the Christmas money to remove Bart's tattoo, Homer takes a job as Santa. Santa's Little Helper, the family dog, makes his first appearance.

### 4. South Park: Mr. Hankey, The Christmas Poo (1997)

Hi Dee Ho, Everybody! This is the first episode where Kenny does not die. If the disgusting live action commercial does not make you laugh...

### 5. The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)

Michael Caine makes another great Scrooge. And who can honestly say they hate the Muppets?

### 6. Miracle on 34th St. (1947)

Is the department store Santa the real Santa? Natalie Wood shines as the little girl.

### 7. Miracle on 34th St. (1994)

This faithful remake is almost on par with the original. Check out the scene with the deaf girl.

### 8. Merry Christmas Mr. Bean (1992)

Mr. Bean's silly antics may not be sophisticated, but they sure are funny. Make sure you check out how he stuffs his turkey.

### 9. A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)

The Peanuts crew makes their debut with this Christmas special. Who can forget Charlie Brown and his tree?

### 10. How The Grinch Stole Christmas! (1966)

Dr. Seuss at his very best

### 11. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

An unusual Christmas movie, but Tim Burton's twisted sense of humour makes it worthwhile.

### 12. It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

An extremely overrated movie, but Christmas would not be quite the same without it.

## Need an afternoon break?

Catch a movie at **Paramount**  
John and Richmond

Show your George Brown  
Student ID Card for a

\$ 3.00  
MOVIE!

See any film (including IMAX)  
before 6 pm  
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